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# R U R A L  D I S T R I C T  C O U N C I L
## NORTHUMBERLAND

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## R E P O R T S

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- and the -

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

- of the -

CASTLE WARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

NORTHUMBERLAND.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to submit to you my Forty-second Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending December 31st, 1943.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area (in acres) ... ... ... ... | 82,827 |
| Population ... ... ... ... ... | 13,530 |
| Number of inhabited housed ... ... | 3,609 |
| Rateable Value ... ... ... ... | £99,428 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate ... | £393. |

## Vital Statistics.

### Births.

Number of births registered during the year: 210 compared with 193 in 1942.

| | M. | F. |
|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | 109 | 94 |
| Illegitimate | 3 | 4 |
| Total: | 112 | 98 |

Birth Rate:- 15.5 per 1000 per annum compared with 15.2 per 1000 per annum in 1942.

Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1942 was 16.5 per 1000 per annum.

### Still Births.

| | M. | F. |
|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | - | 3 |
| Illegitimate | - | - |
| Total: | - | 3 |

Total rate per 1000 (Live and Still) 15.7 per 1000 per annum compared with 15.9 per 1000 per annum in 1942.

### Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered during the year was 126 compared with 121 in 1942.

Death Rate:- 9.3 per 1000 per annum compared with 10.1 per 1000 per annum in 1942.

The death rate for England and Wales in 1943 was 12.1 per 1000 per annum.

The three main causes of deaths were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Heart Disease ... ... ... ... | 42 |
| Cancer ... ... ... ... ... | 16 |
| Intracranial Vascular Lesions ... | 14 |
| Total: | 72 |

### Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis and other Puerperal Causes.

There was one death under this heading.

## Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths under one year was 6, the same as in 1942.

| | M. | F. |
|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | 3 | 3 |
| Illegitimate | - | - |
| Total: | 3 | 3 |

Death Rate of all Infants under one year of age per 1000 Live Births was 28.5 compared with 30.0 in 1942.

| | |
|---|---|
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... ... | Nil |
| " " Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ... | Nil |
| " " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... | Nil |

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (A) Medical. - Part time Medical Officer of Health.
(B) Others. - Sanitary Inspector with Assistant, both having certificates of Royal Sanitary Institute.
Also act as Inspectors of Dairies and Cowsheds, Meat Inspector, and the carrying out of the Housing Scheme under the Housing Acts.

2. Laboratory Facilities.
The examination and analysis of Clinical Material (Sputum, Swabs, etc.), milk and water is under the control of the County Council.

3. Nursing in the Home.

(A) General. - Most of the district is supplied with nurses having the C.M.B. qualification and supplied by the County Nursing Association, under the control of the County Council, the funds being provided by voluntary contributions, with the addition in some instances of small fees. In some cases grants are made by the Ministry of Health.

(B) Infectious Diseases. - Relief nurses from the County Nursing Association when available.

4. Hospitals.
(A) Infectious Disease. - West Northumberland Joint Infectious Hospital situated at Lemington: Takes in cases from Newburn, Gosforth, Prudhoe, and Hexham Urban Districts, and from Hexham and Castle Ward Rural Districts. 68 beds.
(B) Smallpox. - Arrangements have now been made with the Earsdon Joint Hospital Board to remove and treat cases occurring in this area.
(C) Tuberculosis. - Provision made by the County Council, also the Children's Sanatorium at Hexham Hydro (temporarily).
(D) General Medical and Surgical. - Treated in the various hospitals in Newcastle upon Tyne.
(E) Maternity. - Where necessary, in Princess Mary Maternity Hospital; Mona Taylor Maternity Home, Stannington; and, Dilston Hall Maternity Home: when beds are available.

5. Ambulance Facilities.
(A) Infectious Cases. - Removed by respective Hospital Authorities.
(B) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. - At the present time there are no facilities provided by your Council, the cases being removed by ambulances provided by Collieries, or privately.
The matter is under consideration, and it is expected that arrangements for an Ambulance Service will shortly be completed.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

| Diseases. | Total Cases Notified | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Smallpox ... ... ... | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Scarlet Fever ... ... | 27 | 16 | Nil |
| Whooping Cough ... ... | 26 | Nil | Nil |
| Diphtheria ... ... ... | 6 | 5 | Nil |
| Erysipelas ... ... ... | 5 | Nil | Nil |
| Measles ... ... ... | 52 | Nil | Nil |
| Pneumonia ... ... ... | 20 | Nil | Nil |
| Puerperal Pyrexia .. ... | 2 | Nil | Nil |
| TOTAL CASES: ... | 138 | 21 | Nil |

In addition to the above, the following cases were notified by the Military Authorities:

| | |
|---|---|
| Pneumonia ... ... | 7 |
| Diphtheria ... ... | 3 |
| Measles ... ... | 2 |
| Erysipelas ... ... | 1 |
| Total: | 13 |

### Scarlet Fever.

Twenty-seven cases notified compared with thirteen in 1942.

### Diphtheria.

Six cases notified during the year, compared with twenty-three in 1942.

Of these six cases, four were in adults who had not been immunised; the other two had been immunised over 5 years ago, and were mild in character.

Number of children immunised during the year:

| | |
|---|---|
| Under 5 ... ... | 65 |
| Over 5 to 15 ... | 53 |
| Total: | 118 |

These do not include those done under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme under the Northumberland County Council.

### Tuberculosis.

During the year thirteen cases have been notified, compared with four in 1942.

| Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 2 | 7 | 2 | 2 |

There were 5 deaths from the respiratory type.

### School Closure.

No schools have been closed during the year on account of Infectious Disease or other cause.

## Bacteriological Examinations.

During the year the following Bacteriological Examinations have been made.

| | Positive | Negative | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sputum for T.B..... | 7 | 21 | 28 |
| Swabs for B. Diphtheria..... | 6 | 56 | 62 |
| Blood for Agglutination..... | - | 1 | 1 |
| Miscellaneous specimens..... | - | - | 42 |
| Milk Samples for T.B..... | - | 11 | 11 |
| Milk (M.B. Reduction Test).... | - | - | 37 |
| Samples of Water..... | - | - | 6 |

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) WILLMOT HOLMES, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

15th June, 1944.

# REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

## FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Fifth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Department.

### GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

With the continuance of the national emergency and the restrictions on the use of man-power and materials, it is still difficult to get works of repair and maintenance carried out, but every effort is made to get the most necessary works carried out.

### HOUSING.

The Council were allocated 10 houses under the scheme for Rural Workers' Cottages. After protracted negotiations for sites that fulfilled the required conditions, it was decided to build 4 at Stamfordham, 2 at Ponteland, and 4 at Whalton, all of the Parlour Type. The work of erection is proceeding at all three places.

The only other house erected during the year was a wood bungalow on a temporary licence.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

There have been no extensions to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company's main during the year in the Council's area.

The Company together with the Council's four water schemes supply 2/3 of the houses and population in the area with a wholesome supply under constant pressure.

The villages of Stannington, Belsay, Matfen, Capheaton, and Dalton, approximately 1/5 of the houses and population are supplied by the owners of the estates with a constant and wholesome supply.

The remainder, approximately 1/7 of the houses and population in the more scattered parts of the district, rely on wells and springs for their supply.

### SEWAGE WORKS.

During the year a new private sewage works has been constructed at Gallowhill.

No large works of repair or improvement have been possible during the year but all the works under the Council's control have been well maintained.

All the public sewers under the Council's control continue to receive regular attention and are functioning satisfactorily.

### SCAVENGING.

During the year the scavenging of the Parish of Whalton was undertaken in addition to the regular scavenging of the Parishes of Ponteland, Darras Hall, Little Callerton, West Brunton, and North Gosforth, together with the Council houses at Dinnington Village and Hazlerigg. The work is carried out by direct labour and the Council's own wagon. The refuse from a few houses adjoining these parishes are removed by arrangement.

### SALVAGE.

This work still continues partly in conjunction with the collection of house refuse and partly by a special collection where there is no regular system of scavenging. The amount of material available is

gradually decreasing. The following amounts were collected and disposed of.

| | Tons. | cwts. | qrs. | lbs. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Paper and Cardboard..... | 76. | 8. | 2. | 0. | 491. | 19. | 4 |
| Scrap iron and tins..... | 102. | 2. | 0. | 0. | 133. | 18. | 0 |
| Non-ferrous metals..... | - . | 5. | 2. | 14. | 8, | 10. | 9 |
| Rags and sacking..... | 7. | 16. | 2. | 14. | 72. | 9. | 7 |
| Bottles and jars: 310 doz. | 1. | 10. | 0. | 0. | 9. | 8. | 1 |
| Rubber..... | 5. | 6. | 0. | 0. | 13. | 5. | 0 |
| Bones ..... | 2. | 4. | 3. | 14. | 9. | 4. | 0 |
| | 195. | 13. | 2. | 14. | £738. | 14. | 9 |

## REPAIR OF WAR DAMAGE.

The amount of war damage during the year was very slight being chiefly roofs. These were repaired promptly by the local builders.

## DAIRIES AND COW SHEDS.

During the year 3 cow-keepers were added to the register making a total of 108 at December 1943.

The National Milk Testing Scheme is now in full operation and all milk sent in wholesale to the receiving depots is tested there, and retailers' milk is tested monthly at the point of production. The results are not sent to the Local Authority so whether there is any improvement in the keeping quality of milk is only known to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Of the samples taken by this Authority 77.4% were satisfactory.

## RODENT CONTROL.

A complete survey of the district and the location of centres of infestation was made on behalf of the Ministry of Food.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) JAMES BOLTON.